



**WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov**

555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Phone: (916) 445-0255

**California Bureau of State Audits  
MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Applicant Review Panel Members Mary Camacho, Kerri Spano, and Nasir Ahmadi  
Applicant Review Panel Counsel Stephanie Ramirez-Ridgeway

**From:** Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations

**Subject:** Staff Report on the Bureau's activities in support of the panel, including forwarding application materials, confirming applicant eligibility, and gathering information concerning applicants

**Date:** June 30, 2010

---

**Introduction**

Since the last meeting of the Applicant Review Panel on June 11, 2010, Bureau staff has been continuing to provide support to the Panel as described in my report at that meeting. More specifically, Bureau staff has been continuing to consult with the Secretary of State's Office and county election departments to confirm that applicants satisfy the eligibility requirements set forth in the California Constitution for serving as members the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Bureau staff also has been searching public records to identify any applicants having a disqualifying conflict of interest as defined by the Voters FIRST Act. In addition, Bureau staff has been researching and responding to questions from the members of the Panel concerning statements made by applicants in their application materials that suggested potential ineligibility, conflicts of interest, or untruthfulness. All reports to the Panel have been posted on the Bureau's redistricting website with the applicants' application materials.

As an additional matter, after the Panel's meeting on June 11, 2010, Bureau staff placed a previously excluded applicant into the supplemental applicant pool in response to a request for reconsideration. The circumstances are discussed below.



## **Addition of Applicant A'lyce Baldarelli To the Supplemental Applicant Pool**

Applicant A'lyce Baldarelli successfully submitted an initial application for selection to the Commission on January 31, 2010, and based on her submission was included in the initial applicant pool established by the Bureau on February 17, 2010. Ms. Baldarelli therefore was invited to submit a supplemental application with three letters of recommendation by the extended deadline of April 19, 2010. However, while the Bureau received three letters of recommendation for Ms. Baldarelli by the filing deadline, it did not receive a supplemental application from her. Accordingly, the Bureau excluded Ms. Baldarelli from the supplemental applicant pool for failing to comply with a procedural requirement of the application process – specifically, failing to submit a complete supplemental application packet by the application deadline. The Bureau informed Ms. Baldarelli of her exclusion on April 29, 2010, and within 10 days of being given that notice Ms. Baldarelli requested reconsideration of her exclusion, on the basis that an inadvertent computer error had caused her application not to be received.

Unfortunately, while Ms. Baldarelli's request for reconsideration was timely and properly received, and she stated grounds for reconsideration that served as the basis for other applicants being granted reconsideration of their exclusion from the supplemental applicant pool, her request was misfiled. The circumstances of this misfiling appear quite unique, and so far as we can determine at this time, it is the only request for reconsideration that was misfiled. But as a result, no action was taken on her request.

Then on June 2, 2010, Ms. Baldarelli contacted the Bureau to inquire about the status of her request for reconsideration. In response to this inquiry, staff searched the Bureau's files, determined that Ms. Baldarelli's request for reconsideration had been misfiled, that her request would have been granted had it not been misfiled, and advised her that the Bureau would correct its error at the first opportunity – which could not be until after the Panel's June 11, 2010 meeting, as an agenda already had been published for that meeting.

So at its June 11, 2010 meeting, the Panel reduced the supplemental pool of applicants from 4,546 applicants to 622 applicants. Thereafter, the Bureau granted Ms. Baldarelli's request for reconsideration of her exclusion from the supplemental applicant pool and included her in the pool, increasing the applicant pool to 623 applicants. Ms. Baldarelli's application materials were simultaneously posted on the Bureau's website along with the documents related to her request for reconsideration.